

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
 ICA-11 HA-05 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-15
 SOE-02 AGRE-00 VO-05 CA-01 ACDA-12 OES-07 /135 W
 -----124894 261306Z /43

R 260940Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SEVSTATE WASHDC 4615
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBUY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
USMISSION USNATO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SOFIA 0978

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, BU, TU
SUBJECT: ECEVIT VISIT TO BULGARIA

REF: A) SOFIA 0860; B) SOFIA 0885; NOTAL; C) 77 SOFIA 2473
NOTAL

1. SUMMARY: TURKISH AMBASSADOR BARUTUCU PROVIDED BRIEFING ON
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RECENT ECEVIT VISIT TO BULGARIA(REF A). HE STRESSED WORKING
NATURE OF VISIT AND SAID THAT MAIN TOPIC WAS BILATERAL ECONOMIC
RELATIONS, AS REFLECTED IN COMMUNIQUE. JOINT ECONOMIC COOPERA-
TION WILL INCREASE, ESPECIALLY IN FIELDS OF TRANSPORT AND
AGRICULTURE.PROGRESS IS STILL STALLED ON MULTILATERAL
BALKAN COOPERATION, DUE TO BULGARIAN INTRANSIGENCE. NO
PROGRESS WAS MADE IN LIBERALIZING VISA POLICIES BETWEEN TWO

COUNTRIES ALTHOUGH TURKISH EMIGRATION PROCEEDS. END SUMMARY.

2. TURKISH AMBASSADOR BARUTCU BRIEFED ON ECEVIT MEETING MAY 18 AT MONTHLY NATO AMBASSADORS' MEETING. BARUTCU SAID VISIT HAD TAKEN PLACE AT ZHIVKOV'S INITIATIVE AND CHARACTERIZED IT AS "WORKING MEETING," SIMILAR TO UPCOMING VISIT OF GREEK PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS. VISIT WAS OF USUAL DURATION FOR SUCH BULGARIAN/TURKISH EXCHANGES, TWO DAYS, AND BARUTCU SAID SUCH MEETINGS WERE "GOOD FOR RELATIONS." VISIT OF PRESIDENT KORUTURK IN JUNE (REF B) HAD BEEN AGREED UPON BEFORE ECEVIT VISIT, AND HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SCHEDULED FOR LAST WINTER. ITS COMING SO SOON ON HEELS OF ECEVIT VISIT IS THUS COINCIDENTAL AND DOES NOT REPRESENT ACCELERATION OF BULGARIAN/TURKISH HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES. KORUTURK'S VISIT WILL BE "PURELY SYMBOLIC" AND WILL INVOLVE TWO DAYS IN SOFIA AND TWO IN VARNA BETWEEN JUNE 8 AND 11. TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER YOKCHUYUN WILL ACCOMPANY KORUTURK.

3. BARUTCU AFFIRMED THAT BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS WERE MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION. TRANSPORT IS A MAJOR BULGARIAN ITEM. TURKS WANT NEW OVERALL TRANSPORT AGREEMENT, INCLUDING MARITIME AND RAIL TRANSPORT. BULGARIA HAS

TO CONCENTRATE ON ITS VERY REMUNERATIVE TRUCK FLEET, WHILE TURKS PREFER TO INCREASE RAIL TRAFFIC, CONSIDERING COST OF ROAD MAINTENANCE. JOINT SUBJECTS WERE CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

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TO BUILD NEW ROADS IN TURKEY, BYPASSING ISTANBUL, WITH JOINT FINANCING. BOTH SIDES ARE INTERESTED IN NEW ROADS TO INCREASE TOURISM AT BLACK SEA COASTS. ON COMMON PORT QUESTION (PARAGRAPH A, REF A), DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED ON QUESTION OF LOCATION, WHICH WOULD BE PORT AND RAIL HEAD AS WELL. PORT WOULD APPARENTLY BE ON MARMARA.

4. QUESTION OF RECIPROCAL VISA POLICIES, RELATED TO TRANSPORT ISSUE, WAS ALSO DISCUSSED. TURKS WISH TO ABOLISH ALTOGETHER, OR AT VERY LEAST TRANSIT VISAS. (FRG AMBASSADOR STOECKER INTERJECTED THAT HALF A MILLION TURKISH WORKERS MUST OBTAIN VISAS FROM BULGARIAN

EMBASSY IN BONN EVERY YEAR, PRESENTING GERMANS WITH A CROWD

CONTROL PROBLEM, AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIAL INCONVENIENCE TO THE TURKISH EMBASSY.) BULGARIANS ARE VERY RELUCTANT TO FOREGO ESTIMATED \$30 MILLION A YEAR THEY TAKE IN VISA FEES FROM TURKISH WORKERS AND SO DRAG THEIR FEET ON VISA QUESTION.

5. ON OTHER ECONOMIC PARTS, BARUTCU SAID THAT BULGARIANS WOULD PROVIDE TURKEY FURTHER HELP IN SOME AGRICULTURAL AREAS SUCH AS WINE AND SUNFLOWER OIL PRODUCTION. TURKEY WISHES TO INCREASE ITS IMPORTS OF ELECTRICITY FROM BULGARIA AND TWO SIDES AGREED TO JOINT INVESTMENT IN THAT AREA. BULGARIA WILL PROVIDE SOME TECHNOLOGY TO TURKEY

IN FIELD OF LIGNITE COAL MINING. TURKEY APPARENTLY HAS HIGH QUALITY LIGNITE. (ACCORDING TO BARUTKO, BULGARIA

PRODUCES 25 PERCENT OF ITS ELECTRICITY FROM PEAT AND LIGNITE.)

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6. ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, TURKS (AS THE NEXT SCHEDULED XST) RAISED QUESTION OF MULTILATERAL BALKAN COOPERATION MEETING, IF BULGARIANS WERE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE. BULGARIANS REPEATEDLY REITERATING OLD ARGUMENTS FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN BALKAN NATION. TURKEY THEN SUGGESTED POSSIBILITIES FOR MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN SOME AREAS, SUCH AS TRANSPORT AND TOURISM. BULGARIANS
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DID NOT REJECT THESE TURKISH PROPOSALS, BUT DID NOT AGREE.

7. ON UN SSOD, BULGARIANS INDICATED INTENTION TO PRESS THERE FOR WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.

8. FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV CHARACTERIZED OVERALL STATE OF BULGARIAN FOREIGN RELATIONS AS "GOOD," EXCEPT FOR "SMALL" PROBLEMS WITH ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA. (COMMENT: YUGOSLAVIA AND BULGARIA CONTINUE TO SNARL AT EACH OTHER OR MACEDONIA. PROBLEM WITH ROMANIA MLADENOV REFERS TO IS PROBABLY GENERAL LACK OF SUCCESS BULGARIA HAS IN TRYING TO PARLAY ITS GOOD BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA INTO GREATER ROMANIAN COOPERATION IN CEMA AND THE WARSAW PACT. END COMMENT.) MLADZOV SAID BULGARIA HAD "GOOD" RELATIONS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY WITH THE FRG (WHICH BROUGHT A SNORT FROM THE FRG AMBASSADOR). TURKEY AVOIDED

ALL REFERENCE TO "MILITARY DETENTE" IN THE COMMUNIQUUS(PARA 3, REF A), KEEPING POINT GENERAL AND KEEPING WORD "MILITARY" OUT.

9. BARUTCU SAID THAT SOME 120,000 TURKS HAD EMIGRATED FROM BULGARIA TO TURKEY SINCE LATE 1977 AGREEMENT (REF C). TWO SIDES HAD DECIDED TO DISCUSS FURTHER QUESTION OF POSSIBLE REFERRAL OF AGREEMENT (PARA 4, REF C).PA) OTHER
SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT ECEVIT HAD HIT BULGARIANS VERY HARD ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION OF TURKISH MINORITY IN BULGARCUCU, A THEME ALSO ECEVIT VISIT TO BULGARIA PRIOR TO BECOMING PRIME MINISTER.)

73. BARUTCU ALSO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED QUESTION OF RECIPROCAL TRAVEL CONTROLS ON BULGARIAN DIPLOMATS IN TURKEY AND

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TURKISH DIPLOMATS HERE. HE SAID THAT PRIOR TO THE ECEVIT VISIT THE TURKS HAD REVISED THEIR TRAVEL CONTROLS ON BULGARIAN DIPLOMATS, LIBERALIZING THEM SLIGHTLY TO BE STRICTLY RECIPROCAL WITH BULGARIAN RESTRICTIONS (WHICH ARE MORE ONEROUS FOR TURKS THAN FOR ANY OTHER COUNTRY, RE-QUIRING ADVANCE PERMISSION FOR TRAVEL EXCEPT AROUND SOFIA AND ON DIRECT ROUTE FROM SOFIA TO TURKEY, BY ALL EXCEPT THE AMBASSADOR PERSONALLY).
GARTHOFF

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